

From: Donnelly, Peggy [Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/9/2022 6:34:25 PM
To: Pelloso, Elizabeth [Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Burdick, Melanie [Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Peg Donnelly
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Water Division
77 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60604
312.886.6109 office
312.914.4794 cell
donnelly.peggy@epa.gov

From: Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Liz Pelloso, PWS
NEPA Project Manager
USEPA Region 5
Phone: 312-886-7425
Email: pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov

From: Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

So sorry. This sent before I was ready.

Please let me know if you have any major concerns with attaching the Draft EA comment letter or with any of the major points of the letter.

Melanie Burdick
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Wetlands Section
312-886-2255
Burdick.melanie@epa.gov

From: Burdick, Melanie
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Donnelly, Peggy <donnelly.peggy@epa.gov>; Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>
Cc: Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>; Westlake, Kenneth <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>; Tschampa, Andrew <tschampa.andrew@epa.gov>; Simon, Roy <Simon.Roy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Watersheds and Wetlands
U.S. EPA (ww-16j)
77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago, Illinois 60604
e-mail: burdick.melanie@epa.gov
phone: 312-886-2255
fax: 312-697-2598

From: Donnelly, Peggy

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 4:11 PM

To: Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>

Cc: Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>; Westlake, Kenneth <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>; Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>; Tschampa, Andrew <tschampa.andrew@epa.gov>; Simon, Roy <Simon.Roy@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Peg Donnelly
U.S. EPA, Water Division
312.886.6109 office
312.914.4794 cell

On Apr 10, 2019, at 3:01 PM, Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Liz Pelloso, PWS

NEPA Implementation Section

USEPA - Region 5

Phone: 312-886-7425

Email: pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov

From: Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:54 PM

To: Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Liz

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-351-6274

From: Pelloso, Elizabeth

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:12 PM

To: Charles Uhlarik <Charles.A.Uhlarik@usace.army.mil>; amanda.r.meyer@usace.army.mil;
'jason.a.chrumka@usace.army.mil' <jason.a.chrumka@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Scott Hanshue <hanshues1@michigan.gov>; 'Jessica Pruden@fws.gov' <Jessica.Pruden@fws.gov>; Scott Hicks
<Scott.Hicks@fws.gov>; 'ErtelP@michigan.gov' <ErtelP@michigan.gov>; Luke Trumble (trumblel@michigan.gov)
<trumblel@michigan.gov>; 'WesleyJ@michigan.gov' <WesleyJ@michigan.gov>; Amy Lounds
<LOUNDSA@michigan.gov>; 'MatousekB@michigan.gov' <MatousekB@michigan.gov>; 'OCCHIPINTIM@michigan.gov'
<OCCHIPINTIM@michigan.gov>

Subject: FW: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Charlie, Amanda, and Jason,

It was good to see you Monday in Grand Rapids (and also to see nearly everyone on the CC list!) at USACE's open house/scoping meeting for the Grand River Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Control Project. At Monday's meeting, I learned about the adjacent proposed Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration - Farmland Conservation Project, which is being undertaken with a lot of partners, including the Grand Valley Metro Council and the City of Grand Rapids. That project is being partially funded by NRCS under their Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and as such, must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I had not been aware of this proposed project until Monday.

Having said that, I was curious as to how the environmental impacts/effects of two adjacent projects with two different federal lead agencies, even if they are determined to have "independent utility," are not being studied jointly under NEPA. USACE's project is being reviewed as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), while NRCS's project is currently moving forward as an Environmental Assessment (EA). It also appears there is some project overlap in the area just north of I-196.

I spent some time on the phone this morning with Betsy Dierberger (NRCS MI) and the email below to her is the follow-up to the conversation we had. I suggested that she work with both USACE and USFWS, in addition to the state agencies, as NEPA progresses. I also would like to know, from NRCS's standpoint, why they are utilizing an EA as their NEPA document.

This is more of just an FYI for you. For folks on CC, if your agencies have previously sent or plan to send any correspondence out to either NRCS or to USACE on these two projects that relates to 404/water permitting, dam safety, fisheries, flooding concerns, etc., I would appreciate a copy of any prior correspondence, and also to be cc'd on any correspondence you may send out during the current scoping period.

Thanks much!

Liz Pelloso

Liz Pelloso, PWS

Wetland/Environmental Scientist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5

NEPA Implementation Section
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (Mail Code E-19J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-7425
Email: pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov

From: Pelloso, Elizabeth

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 1:56 PM

To: Betsy.Dierberger@mi.usda.gov

Cc: kim.wieber@mi.usda.gov

Subject: NRCS compliance with NEPA - Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration RCPP

Importance: High

Hi Betsy,

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Thank you!

Liz Pelloso

Liz Pelloso, PWS

Wetland/Environmental Scientist

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